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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

Vol. 26 No. 10 A Monthly Newsletter Published in Cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics October, 1989

Trend Setters

Wyoming	July'89	Aug'89
Labor Force	228,633	225,264
Employment	214586	211,765
Unemployment	14,047	13,499
Rate (Raw)	6.1	6.0
Rate (S.A.)	7.0	7.1
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.42	$14.21
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.8	42.8
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.2	5.2
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.97	$13.11
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.8	43.2
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	124.4	124.6
Year Change (U.S.)	+5.0	+4.7

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

In This Issue:

Wyoming Lumber Production Declines.

1987 Census of Agriculture.

Civilian Unemployment Rates by Country.

U.S. Unemployment Continues at 5.2 Percent

National unemployment, at 5.2 percent in August seasonally adjusted, continued in the same 5.2-5.3 percent range it has maintained since April. The year ago rate was 5.6 percent. Adult men had the lowest unemployment, at 4.4 percent, in August. Teenagers continued with the highest, at 14.5 percent. National nonagricultural payroll employment, as measured by the establishment survey, gained 110,000 workers in August. The household survey picked up 138,000 workers. Both of these Federal surveys suggest the pace of employment growth has moderated in recent months, implying a "soft landing" for the economy.

National Service-Producing Industries Gain

Annual worker gains in the U.S. economy were concentrated in services, up 1.3 million; trade, up 614 thousand; and government, up 442 thousand. Like Wyoming, the mining industry showed little improvement over-the-year.

The seasonally adjusted number of employed and unemployed in August in the U.S. stood at 117.6 and 6.4 million, respectively.

Wyoming Unemployment at 7.1 Percent

Statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment continued at almost two full percentage points above the U.S. rate, at 7.1 percent, in August. The August rate is about the same as the 7.0 percent of last month and slightly above the 6.8 percent of a year ago.

Unadjusted, the August rate of 6.0 percent was at about the same level as the 6.1 and 5.8 percent of a month and a year ago. The number unemployed in August stood at 13,500.

Wyoming 7th Highest

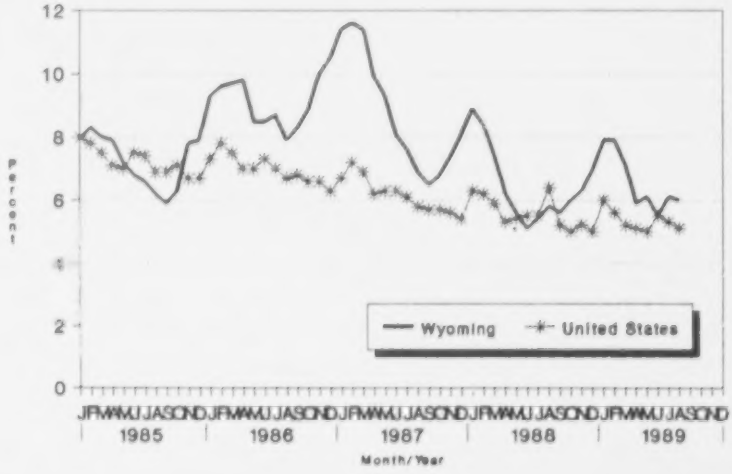
The Cowboy State ranked seventh highest in unadjusted unemployment, nationally, at 6.1 percent in July. Louisiana and Hawaii ranked highest and lowest at 9.7 and 2.4 percent. Wyoming had higher unemployment than any of its contiguous states.

Wyoming Labor Force Continues Decline

In August, the statewide civilian labor force, at 225,300, continued down by almost four percent from a year ago. Total employment, workers, stood at 211,800.

Annual worker declines continued in mining and construction, the chief growth industries during the 1974-1982 energy boom. On an optimistic note, noteable annual gains were posted in services, following the same trend as the nation. Transportation and public utilities in Wyoming

Unemployment Rate, Wyoming and the U.S.
Civilian Unadjusted
1985 - 1989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1988
1989
Month/Year

showed growth. Lesser gains were recorded in government, manufacturing and finance, insurance and real estate.

Jackson Hole, the Growth Continues

Teton County, Jackson Hole, continued its prosperous ways with the highest numerical labor force growth and an incredibly low, 1.4 percent, unemployment rate.

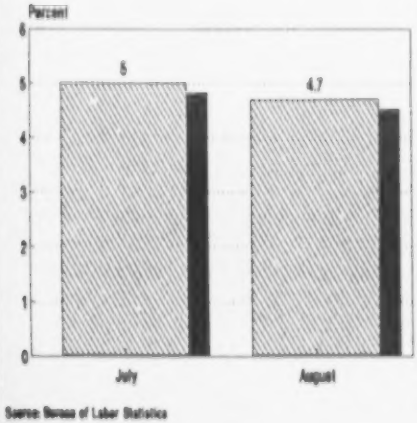
It appears that dependence upon tourism, where the Tetons are concerned, is a virtual guarantee of constant employment growth. For example, during the 1974-1982 boom years while the state averaged an eight percent annual growth rate, Jackson Hole averaged 10 percent with no energy dependence. While statewide employment has dropped 15 percent since 1982, Teton County has grown by 55 percent.

The Rest of the State

Like the state as a whole, most Wyoming counties indicated over the year labor force declines. The highest unemployment rate was shared by Fremont and Sweetwater counties, both with 8.1 percent. Next to Teton County, Niobrara and Albany counties had the lowest unemployment rates of 2.6 and 3.4 percent.

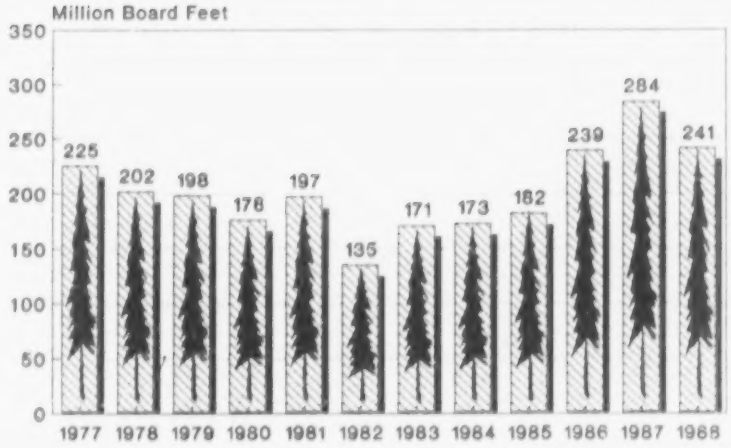
Natrona County, the Casper area, had the most unemployed, 2,100.

Consumer Price Index
Annual Percent Change
All Urban



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Wyoming Lumber Production
1977 - 1988



Source: Western Wood Products Assoc.

Wyoming Lumber Production Declines

According to information in the Western Wood Production Association's *1988 Statistical Yearbook of the Western Lumber Industry*, Wyoming's lumber production fell 15 percent from 284 million board feet (MBF) in 1987 to 241 MBF in 1988. The state saw its lowest production in recent years in 1982, a scant 135 MBF.

The estimated wholesale value of the lumber produced in Wyoming in 1988 was $63.4 million, a 1.3 percent decline from the 1987 value of $64.2 million. For 1982 the estimated valuation was $27.1 million.

During 1988 Wyoming's forest products industry saw employment increasing by 20 workers. The industry employed about 1,410 workers in 1988 or 0.8 percent of the state's total employment.

Most of Wyoming's lumber is sold to markets in the midwest or to parts of the Southeast and South Central United States. Wyoming exports little, if any, of its lumber overseas. Ponderosa pine accounted for the largest share of the lumber cut, 36.6 percent, while lodgepole pine accounted for another 26.0 percent.

Albany, Converse, Crook, Platte and Weston counties as a group saw their production remain steady producing 69 MBF in both 1987 and 1988. The Carbon, Hot Springs, Johnson, Park and Sheridan group saw a decrease in lumber production of 17 MBF over-the-year, from 130 MBF to 113 MBF. The group of Fremont, Lincoln, Sublette and Uinta counties also saw a decrease from 85 MBF to 59 MBF.

CONVERSE, WYOMING

Converse County's 1987 population of 12,800 ranked 12th in the state.

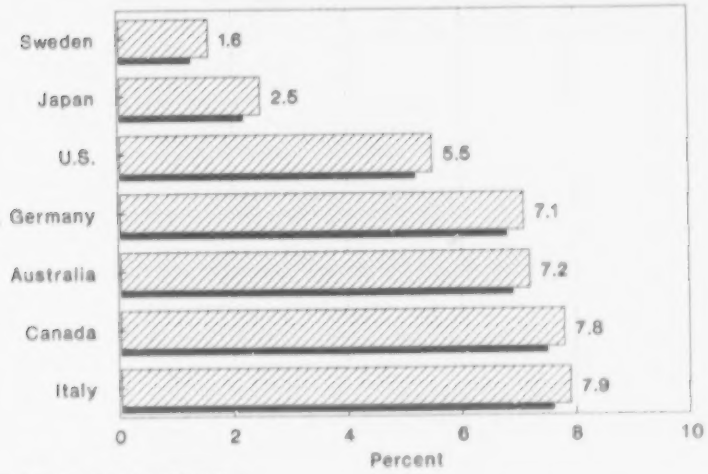
PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME - In 1987, Converse had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $12,183. This PCPI ranked 14th in the state, and was 96 percent of the state average ($12,706) and 79 percent of the national average ($15,484). In 1977, Converse's PCPI of $8,465 ranked sixth in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 3.7 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.0 percent and for the nation 7.8 percent.

CROOK, WYOMING

Crook County's 1987 population of 5,900 ranked 20th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME - In 1987, Crook had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $12,573. This PCPI ranked 10th in the state, and was 99 percent of the state average ($12,706) and 81 percent of the national average ($15,484). In 1977, Crook's PCPI of $6,855 ranked 13th in the state. The average annual

Civilian Unemployment Rates by Country
1988 Annual Averages



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

growth rate for the state was 5.0 percent and for the nation was 7.8 percent.

1987 Census of Wyoming Agriculture

Agriculture in Wyoming has historically been important to the state's development and economic stability. Results from the just released 1987 Census of Agriculture show that this industry is as important as ever to Wyoming's well-being.

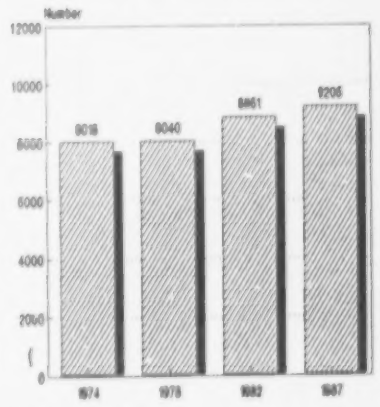
Since the early seventies the number of farms and ranches in Wyoming has increased, going from 8,018 in 1974 to 9,205 in 1987. This is contrary to the national trend of fewer farms with more corporate sponsorship.

While there were more farms, the average size of those farms in Wyoming decreased, falling from 4,274 acres in 1974 to 3,650 acres in 1987. Wyoming ranked second among the states in 1987 in average farm size.

Below are highlights from the 1987 Census of Wyoming Agriculture.

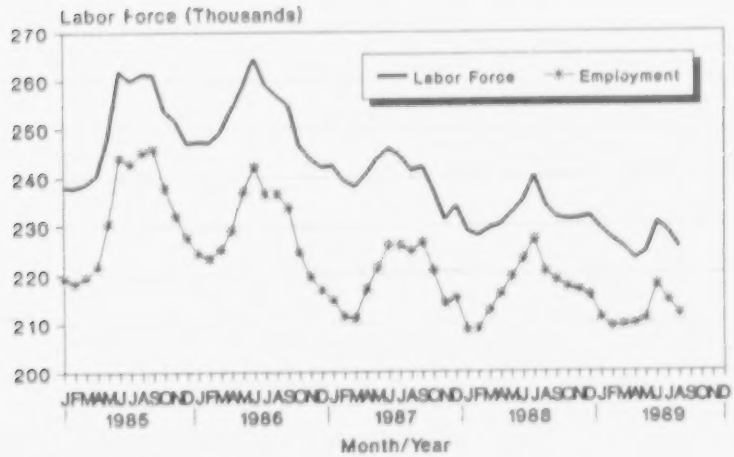
- The value of land in Wyoming was $147 an acre.
- About 88 percent of land use was pastureland and rangeland, while 8.4 percent was used for cropland.
- The average farm operator was 52 years old.
- Most farms were individually or family run, rather than partnerships or corporations.
- Half of all farm operators work full-time on the farm, however another 30 percent spend 200 days or more working off the farm.
- The average farm in Wyoming would have $533,284 worth of land and buildings.
- The majority of farms (70.2 percent) have product sale values of less than $50,000.
- Of the crops harvested 66 percent of the acreage goes to growing hay-all types.
- Fremont County had the most farms in the state, 908.
- Sweetwater County had the largest average farm size, 9,195 acres.
- Teton County had the highest per acre value, $1,233.
- Sublette County had the greatest number of acres of irrigated land, 159,025.

Wyoming Farms and Ranches



Source: U.S. Department of Census

Wyoming Labor Force and Employment
1985 - 1989



Scale does not begin at zero.
Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, BLS and Research & Analysis.

Consumer Price Index

(1982-1984 = 100)
All Urban

	Aug 1989	Annual % change
All Items	124.6	4.7
Food & Beverage	125.6	5.2
Housing	124.2	3.9
Entertainment	127.3	5.5
Apparel & Upkeep	115.0	2.1
Transportation	114.3	4.3
Medical	150.7	7.7

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

WYOMING
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

TABLE 1

ITEM	AUGUST 1989 [1]	JULY 1989 [1]	AUGUST 1988 [2]	% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP. Percent Change From A Month Ago	A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	225,264	228,633	234,050	- 1.5	- 3.8
Unemployment	13,499	14,047	13,590	- 3.9	- 0.7
Employed Labor Force	211,765	214,586	220,460	- 1.3	- 3.9
a. Covered Employment (Under WY UI Law) [3]	185,500	184,500	180,691	0.5	2.7
b. Agriculture [3]	14,176	13,839	15,044	2.4	- 5.8
Total Unemployment Rate (WY) Seasonally Adjusted*	6.0% 7.1%*	6.1% 7.0%*	5.8% 6.8%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U. S.) Seasonally Adjusted*	5.1% 5.2%*	5.3% 5.2%*	5.4% 5.6%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (WY) [4]	1.3%	1.4%	1.6%	XXX	XXX
HOURS AND EARNINGS [5]					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 608.19	$ 617.18	$ 626.01	- 1.5	- 2.8
Average Weekly Hours	42.8	42.8	43.9	0.0	- 2.5
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.21	$ 14.42	$ 14.26	- 1.5	- 0.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	11,369	13,082	13,389	-13.1	-15.1
a. Initial	1,668	1,685	1,607	- 1.0	3.8
Weeks Compensated	8,912	8,309	9,085	7.3	- 1.9
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$1,370,740	$1,295 951	$1,401,735	5.8	- 2.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 153.42	$ 155.20	$ 153.75	- 1.1	- 0.2
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
Total Applications Received During Month	5,824	6,930	3,800	-16.0	53.3
Total Openings Received	4,030	3,586	3,985	12.4	1.1
Individual Placements	2,257	2,255	2,297	0.1	1.7
Placement Transactions	2,634	2,517	2,901	4.6	- 9.2
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS AND EARNINGS [5]					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 566.35	$ 555.12	$ 532.98	2.0	6.3
Average Weekly Hours	43.2	42.8	42.0	0.9	2.9
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.11	$ 12.97	$ 12.69	1.1	3.3
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-1984 = 100	124.6	124.4	119.0	0.2	4.7
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-1984 = 100	112.0	112.7	108.0	- 0.6	3.7

[1] Preliminary. [2] Revised. [3] Not bencharmarked to current population survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants remaining benefits under extended benefit provisions. [5] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded.

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

TABLE 2 (Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
COUNTY	AUG 1989	JUL 1989	AUG 1988	% CHANGE JUL-AUG	% CHANGE AUG-AUG	AUG 1989	AUG 1989	JUL 1988	AUG 1989	JUL 1989	AUG 1988
Statewide	225,264	228,633	234,050	- 1.5	- 3.8	13,499	14,047	13,590	6.0	6.1	5.8
Statewide - Seasonally Adjusted									7.1*	7.0*	6.8*
Albany	13,010	13,213	14,030	- 1.5	- 7.3	443	534	466	3.4	4.0	3.3
Big Horn	4,796	4,828	4,792	- 0.7	0.1	275	291	349	5.7	6.0	7.3
Campbell	14,087	13,966	14,657	0.9	- 3.9	1,099	1,023	934	7.8	7.3	6.4
Carbon	6,779	6,763	7,390	0.2	- 8.3	470	517	506	6.9	7.6	6.8
Converse	5,485	5,565	5,698	- 1.4	- 3.7	401	400	408	7.3	7.2	7.2
Crook	2,677	2,784	2,753	- 3.8	- 2.8	204	147	115	7.6	5.3	4.2
Fremont	15,174	15,208	15,211	- 0.2	- 0.2	1,231	1,208	1,146	8.1	7.9	7.5
Goshen	5,258	5,497	5,714	- 4.3	- 8.0	230	289	355	4.4	5.3	6.2
Hot Springs	2,626	2,744	2,834	- 4.3	- 7.3	115	121	142	4.4	4.4	5.0
Johnson	3,464	3,522	3,527	- 1.6	- 1.8	179	213	169	5.2	6.0	4.8
Laramie	32,821	33,280	35,281	- 1.4	- 7.0	1,821	1,861	1,750	5.5	5.6	5.0
Lincoln	5,374	5,327	5,952	0.9	- 9.7	368	464	413	6.8	8.7	6.9
Natrona	28,963	28,989	29,676	- 0.1	- 2.4	2,082	2,091	1,772	7.2	7.2	6.0
Niobrara	1,105	1,140	1,374	- 3.1	-19.6	29	30	73	2.6	2.6	5.3
Park	14,814	14,991	14,881	- 1.2	- 0.5	777	653	664	5.2	4.4	4.5
Platte	4,657	4,670	4,550	- 0.3	2.4	266	249	297	5.7	5.3	6.5
Sheridan	13,088	13,351	12,848	- 2.0	1.9	644	644	749	4.9	4.8	5.8
Sublette	2,650	2,742	2,939	- 3.4	- 9.8	102	174	174	3.8	6.3	5.9
Sweetwater	17,245	17,703	18,132	- 2.6	- 4.9	1,395	1,591	1,563	8.1	9.0	8.6
Teton	15,002	15,647	14,595	- 4.1	2.8	217	262	262	1.4	1.7	1.8
Uinta	8,970	9,306	9,494	- 3.6	- 5.5	713	749	779	7.9	8.0	8.2
Washakie	4,004	4,123	4,404	- 2.9	- 9.1	250	272	295	6.2	6.6	6.7
Weston	3,215	3,273	3,320	- 1.8	- 3.2	188	264	210	5.8	8.1	6.3
United States									5.1	5.3	5.4
United States - Seasonally Adjusted									5.2*	5.2*	5.6*

The ESC wishes to state that the data contained in this table are only estimates. The data for the current month is a preliminary estimate and will be revised next month, and revised yet again in about a year. The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, the 1988 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

TABLE 3 (Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP.	
	AUG 1989 [2] TOTAL	JUL 1989 [3] TOTAL	AUG 1988 TOTAL	JUL 1989 to AUG 1989	AUG 1988 to AUG 1989
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	189.2	190.2	187.1	-0.5%	1.1%
Manufacturing	9.4	9.5	9.1	-1.1	3.3
Durable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.0	2.4
Nondurable Goods	5.1	5.2	4.9	-1.9	4.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	179.8	180.7	178.0	-0.5	1.0
Mining	18.9	18.8	19.2	0.5	-1.6
Contract Construction	11.8	11.4	11.9	3.5	-0.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.2	13.9	13.5	2.2	5.2
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.0	5.3
Transportation except Railroads	6.3	6.1	5.7	3.3	10.5
Communications, Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	5.9	5.8	5.9	1.7	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	43.2	43.7	43.3	-1.1	-0.2
Wholesale Trade	7.0	7.0	6.9	0.0	1.5
Retail Trade	36.2	36.7	36.4	-1.4	-0.6
Food Stores	5.2	5.3	5.1	-1.9	2.0
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	6.0	6.1	5.8	-1.6	3.5
Eating & Drinking Places	13.8	14.0	14.0	-1.4	-1.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.3	7.3	7.2	0.0	1.4
Services	38.2	38.1	37.1	0.3	3.0
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	-5.3
Medical & Other Health Services	7.0	7.0	6.9	0.0	1.5
Government	46.2	47.5	45.8	-2.7	0.9
Federal Government	8.9	9.1	8.5	-2.2	4.7
State & Local Government	37.3	38.4	37.3	-2.9	0.0
State Government	13.8	14.4	13.1	-4.2	5.3
Local Government	23.5	24.0	24.2	-2.1	-2.9

See footnotes at end of table

NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

TABLE 3 (Continued) (Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP.	
	AUG 1989 [2] TOTAL	JUL 1989 [3] TOTAL	AUG 1988 TOTAL	JUL 1989 to AUG 1989	AUG 1988 to AUG 1989
CASPER (Natrona County)					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	27.3	27.2	26.9	0.4%	1.5%
Manufacturing	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.0	7.1
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	25.8	25.7	25.5	0.4	1.2
Mining	2.9	2.7	2.8	7.4	3.6
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.7	2.5	2.6	8.0	3.9
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.8	7.8	7.7	0.0	1.3
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.6	5.6	5.5	0.0	1.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Services	5.7	5.8	5.7	-1.7	0.0
Government	4.5	4.5	4.4	0.0	2.3
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	3.8	3.8	3.7	0.0	2.7
CHEYENNE (Laramie)					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	30.1	30.3	30.1	-0.7%	0.0%
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.8	29.0	28.8	-0.7	0.0
Contract Construction	1.4	1.4	1.7	0.0	-17.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.3	6.9
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.0	7.1	7.0	-1.4	0.0
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.2	6.3	6.2	-1.6	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Services	5.6	5.7	5.7	-1.8	-1.8
Government	9.8	9.9	9.7	-1.0	1.0
Federal Government	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	3.7
State & Local Government	7.0	7.1	7.0	-1.4	0.0

1 Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 2 Subject to revision. 3 Revised figures.

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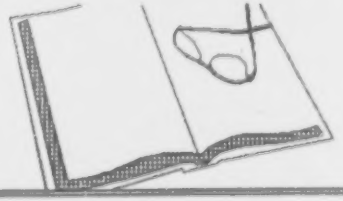
Wyoming

Labor Market Information



W Y O M I N G

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** is published by the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission.

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